

# Sekele language

**Sekele** is the northern language of the !Kung dialect continuum. It was widespread in southern Angola before the civil war,<sup>[3]</sup> but those varieties are now spoken principally among a diaspora in northern Namibia. There are also a number of dialects spoken in Northernmost Namibia.

Sekele goes by a number of names. "Sekele" itself derives from *Vasekele*, the Angolan Bantu name. It is also known as **Northern !Kung** (or equivalently "Northern !Xuun", "Northern Ju" and several other variants). Two of the Angolan varieties have gone by the outdated term !ʼO!Kung (or !ʼO !uŋ [!ʼoː!ʰũ] "Forest !Kung") and Maligo (short for "Sekele Maligo"). There are several Namibian dialects, of which the best known is Ekoka.

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Sekele	
Northern !Kung	
Native to	Namibia, Angola
Region	Okavango and Ovamboland Territory
Language family	<div>Kxʼa<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>!Kung<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Sekele</b></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Dialects	<div><span>!ʼO!Kung</span><div><span>Ekoka !Kung</span><span>Kavango !Kung</span></div></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	vaj – inclusive code <div>Individual code:<span> </span><span>knw</span> – Ekoka !Kung</div>
Glottolog	vase1234 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/vase1234</span> ) <sup>[1]</sup> <div>kung1261 (<span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kung1261</span>)<sup>[2]</sup></div>

## Dialects

There is a division between the northernmost dialects, formerly known as Angolan !Kung and sometimes simply as Northern !Kung, the more southern dialects of northernmost Namibian, known as Western !Kung or North-Central !Kung, and Kavango !Kung to their east.

- Angolan (Northernmost) !Kung, originally of Southern Angola, around the Cunene, Cubango, Cuito, and Cuando rivers

(N1) Maligo (!xuun, kúándò !xuun "Kwando !Xuun"; SE Angola)

(N2) !ʼO!Kung (!ʼo !uŋ "Forest !Xuun"; eastern C Angola)
- Western (North-Central) !Kung (!Kung-Ekoka), of northern Namibia, between the Ovambo River and the Angolan border, around the tributaries of the Okavango River east of Rundu to the Etosha Pan

(W1) — (!xūún, !ʼālè !xòān "Valley !Xuun"; Eenhana district, N Namibia)

(W2) !ʼAkhwe (!xūún, !ʼākhòè !xòān "Kwanyama !Xuun"; Eenhana, N Namibia)

(W3) Tsintsabis (!xūún; Tsintsabis, Tsumeb district, N Namibia)

- (K) Kavango !Kung ( /xūún, known as *dom !xūún* "River !Xuun" in Ekoka; Western Rundu district, N Namibia, & Angola adjacent)

The Okongo, Ovambo and Mpunguvlei dialects may duplicate (W1) and (K) or be additional forms.

A dialect of Angolan Sekele currently being investigated by linguists has been labeled **Mangetti Dune !Kung**, and is spoken by a resettled diaspora community of 500–1000 in Namibia and South Africa in the settlements of Mangetti Dune and Omtaku (Omatoko?), east of Grootfontein, Namibia, halfway to the Botswana border; and in Schmidtsdrif, west of Kimberley, South Africa.

## Phonology

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### Angolan !Kung

Mangetti Dune !Kung has clicks with four places of articulation, /! | ǁ ǂ/. (A reported distinction between dental lateral and postalveolar lateral clicks has not been confirmed by further research.)

These come in the same eight series as in Grootfontein !Kung, here represented with the palatal articulation:

Lingual /ǂ ǂ<sup>h</sup> ǂǂ ǂǂ<sup>h</sup> ǂǂǂ ǂǂǂ<sup>h</sup> /  
glottalized /ǂǂ<sup>ʔ</sup> /  
linguo-pulmonic /ǂǂx/   
linguo-glottalic /ǂǂkx' /

### Western (North-Central) !Kung

## Footnotes

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1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Northern Ju" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/vase1234>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "North-Central Ju" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kung1261>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Gordon Jr. & Grimes 2005

## References

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- Snyman, Jan Winston (1980). "The Relationship Between Angolan !Xu and Zuǀ'ǁasi". *Bushman and Hottentot Linguistic Studies*. Pretoria, South Africa: University of South Africa (UNISA): 1–58.
- Miller, A.L.; Holliday, J.; Howcroft, D.M.; Phillips, S.; Smith, B.; Tsz-Hum, T.; Scott, A. (2011). "The Phonetics of the Modern-Day Reflexes of the Proto-Palatal Click in Juu Languages". *Proceedings of the 4th International Symposium on Khoisan Languages and Linguistics*.

## External links

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- [Comparative !Kung basic lexicon at the Global Lexicostatistical Database \(http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\pkh\nkh&limit=-1\)](http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\pkh\nkh&limit=-1)
  - [ELAR archive of A Video and Text Documentation of Mangetti Dune !Xung \(http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0286\)](http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0286)
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